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United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,189,608**

Lyons et al.

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[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STORING AND GENERATING FINANCIAL INFORMATION EMPLOYING USER SPECIFIED INPUT AND OUTPUT FORMATS**

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[*] **Notice:** The portion of the term of this patent subsequent to Jan. 29, 2008 has been disclaimed.

[21] **Appl. No.:** 480,701

[22] **Filed:** Feb. 15, 1990

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 55,823, Jun. 1, 1987, Pat. No. 4,989,141.

[51] **Int. Cl.⁵** G06F 15/21

[52] **U.S. Cl.** 364/408; 364/401

[58] **Field of Search** 364/400, 401, 408; 11/11; 395/148

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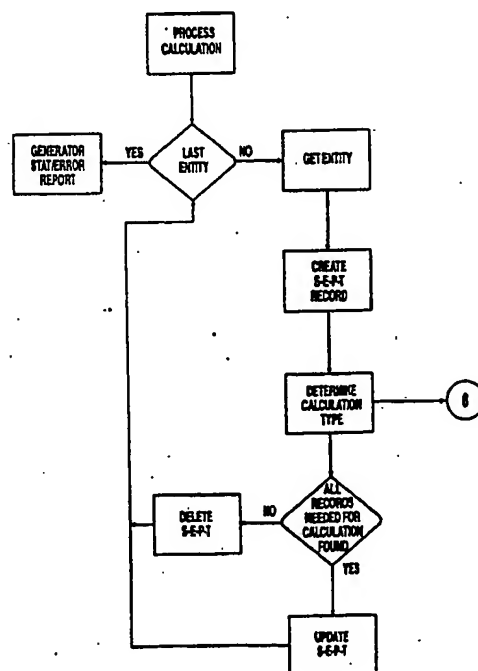
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[57]

ABSTRACT

An advanced financial reporting and analysis software package is described. The package collects, organizes, manages and consolidates financial data and provides user defined capabilities for creating financial and corporate reports. Financial data is organized into four business classifications or dimensions: Schedule, Entity, Period and Type. Data is stored in the system in such a way that all data associated with a particular Schedule, Entity, Period and Type is identified by that particular SEPT value. To accommodate automatic data entry, a mapping means or template is provided that specifies for each different input spreadsheet the location of the first data cell in the spreadsheet and the size of the spreadsheet. Data is read from the data store by various report and spreadsheet generating functions which convert data associated with particular SEPT values to desired output formats.

9 Claims, 29 Drawing Sheets

US-PAT-NO: 5189608

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5189608 A

TITLE: Method and apparatus for storing and generating
financial information employing user specified input and
output formats

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Brief Summary Text - BSTX (2):

This relates generally to computer systems and more particularly to a computer software method and apparatus for advanced financial applications such

as general ledger, inventory, accounts payable, accounts receivable, financial and management reporting, and financial analysis and consolidation.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (3):

Corporate software systems generally are divided into two categories. The first, basic financial systems, includes general ledger, accounts receivable and accounts payable systems. These systems include computer worksheets and data bases. The second, advanced financial systems and processes, uses information from the basic financial systems to perform financial analysis and reporting functions.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (12):

Data can be loaded into the computer system manually as well as from known micro-computer packages such as LOTUS 1-2-3.RTM. and Ashton-Tate's dBase.RTM.

and also from departmental and corporate data bases and basic financial systems

such as general ledger, accounts payable and inventory applications. The software package can also incorporate data from outside sources, such as Dow Jones News/Retrieval service to permit analysis of competitive financial data.

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (20):

In addition to financial and management reporting and analysis, other application areas include international planning and analysis, consolidation and tax analysis and the like. Reporting functions include currency conversion, journal entries, hierarchy roll-ups and computation of year to date totals and variances. Additional features include audit trails and data verification.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (57):

Account Description--To describe accounts (e.g., accounts payable, accounts receivable, cash, goodwill, etc.) to which the user will post journal entries and indicate their location on the input documents.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (75):

The WORKSHEET function allows the user to input data from a WORKSHEET directly into the database. The MANUAL function allows the user to manually enter data from hardcopy, such as standard reporting forms. FILE allows the user to input an ASCII or binary file directly into the database. ENTRIES allows the user to post, print and review journal entries. CALCULATED.sub.--DATA allows the user to create a new type of data by combining data from different periods and types (lateral consolidation). The user may then choose to input data from one of these choices by advancing the highlighting box from one choice to another by means of the cursor keys and pressing the ENTER key when the highlighted function is the desired function.

Current US Original Classification - CCOR (1):

705/30